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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _29 March 2005_.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-29_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-29_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _28 September 2001_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1.   The examiner acknowledges that applicant has corrected the minor informalities cited in the

first office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2.   The examiner acknowledges that applicant has amended claims 11 and 29 to overcome the

35 USC § 112, second paragraph rejections.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-29 have been considered but are moot in

view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in
> the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent
> by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international
> application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an
> application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was
> published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5.   Claims 1-6, 8, 13-14, 16-18, and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Danneels et al. (U.S. 2002/0161591, hereinafter "Danneels").

6.   <u>With respect to claim 1</u>, Danneels discloses a method comprising:

o registering a user from a browser (fig. 2 (100)), at a main web site (fig. 1 (20));

o generating, at the main web site, a linking page, containing a link to an affiliated web site (fig. 2 (102)) that provides additional services that are relevant to the services provided on the main web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the main site);

o advising the user about an available service offered at the affiliated web site, which can be reached through the link (fig. 2 (102), offering a benefit available through a link);

o choosing, by the user, to connect to the affiliated web site for the available service through activating the link on the linking page (fig. 2 (102));

o issuing, by the main web site, upon the link being activated, a ticket (fig. 2 (106), value token), to the user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20), encoded with different kinds of information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o requesting, by the user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20, through the user's web browser), the available service at the affiliated web site using the ticket (fig. 2 (110));

o verifying, at the affiliated web site, the ticket transferred from the main web site (fig. 2 (112));

o providing the available service to the user after the verifying the ticket is successful (fig. 3 (114)).

7.   <u>With respect to claim 2</u>, Danneels discloses the method applied to claim 1, wherein the

issuing a ticket comprises:

o   gathering information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o   issuing a timestamp (paragraph 0024 lines 9-10);

o   generating a digital signature of the ticket (fig. 2 (106), paragraph 0023 lines 16-19, paragraph

    0024 lines 10-13);

o   creating the ticket based on the information related to the user, the timestamp, and the digital

    signature (paragraph 0024 lines 1-13); and

o   encoding the ticket (fig. 2 (106)).

8.   <u>With respect to claim 3</u>, Danneels discloses the method applied to claim 2, wherein the

verifying the ticket comprises:

o   decoding the ticket (fig. 2 (112)); and

o   authenticating the digital signature of the ticket (paragraph 0024 lines 10-20).

9.   <u>With respect to claim 4</u>, Danneels discloses a method for a main web site comprising:

o   receiving a request from a user through a browser (fig. 2 (100) or fig. 2 (101));

o   generating, at the main web site, a linking page, containing a link to an affiliated web site (fig. 2

    (102)) that provides additional services that are relevant to the services provided on the main

    web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the

    main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the

    main site);

o   advising, through the linking page, the user about an available service offered at the affiliated

    web site, which can be reached through the link (fig. 2 (102), offering a benefit available through

    a link);

o   receiving, from the user, a choice to connect to the affiliated web site for the available service

    (fig. 2 (102));

o   issuing (fig. 2 (106), value token), upon receiving the choice of connecting to the available

    service (fig. 2 (102)), a ticket encoded with different kinds of information related to the user

    (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10) and to be used by the user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20, through the

    user's web browser) to request the available service at the affiliated web site (fig. 2 (110)); and

o   transferring the ticket from the main web site to user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20).

10.   With respect to claim 5, Danneels discloses the method applied to claim 4, wherein the

issuing the ticket comprises:

o   determining the user's identification (paragraph 0024 lines 2-3);

o   gathering information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o   issuing a timestamp (paragraph 0024 lines 9-10);

o   generating a digital signature of the ticket (fig. 2 (106), paragraph 0023 lines 16-19, paragraph

    0024 lines 10-13);

o   creating the ticket based on the information related to the user, the timestamp, and the digital

    signature (paragraph 0024 lines 1-13); and

o   encoding the ticket (fig. 2 (106)).

11.   <u>With respect to claim 6</u>, Danneels discloses the method applied to claim 5, wherein the

gathering the information related to the user includes:

o   retrieving the user's information (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10) from a user information database

     (fig. 1 (28)) at the main web site (fig. 1 (10)) based on the user's identification (paragraph 0024

     lines 1-10).

12.   <u>With respect to claim 8</u>, Danneels discloses the method applied to claim 5, wherein encoding

the ticket includes:

o   encoding the ticket as a parameter of a universal resource locator address representing the

     location of the affiliated web site (paragraph 0025 lines 6-9), if the affiliated web site is not in the

     same domain as the main web site (paragraph 0007 lines 2-5).

13.   <u>With respect to claim 13</u>, Danneels discloses a system comprising:

o   a main web site (fig. 1 (20)) for offering online services (fig. 2 (102), links to affiliates);

o   a web client comprising a browser and a user communicating with the main web site through the

     browser for the services (fig. 2 (100));

o   an affiliated web site affiliated with the main web site (fig. 1 (30)) for offering a service that can

     be advised to the user through the main web site (fig. 2 (102)) and that can be provided to the

     user when the main web site transfers the user to the affiliated web site with a ticket (fig. 2 (106),

     value token) containing information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10) and a digital

     signature (fig. 2 (106), paragraph 0023 lines 16-19, paragraph 0024 lines 10-13), where the

     affiliated website provides additional services that are relevant to the services provided on the

     main web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services

on the main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of

the main site).

14.   With respect to claim 14, Danneels discloses the system applied to claim 13, wherein the

main web site comprises:

o   a user registration mechanism for registering the user at the main web site when the user

    connects to the main web site via the browser (fig. 2 (100));

o   a linking page generation mechanism for generating a linking page that contains a link to the

    affiliated web site and that is to be used to advise the user about an available service offered at

    the affiliated web site, which can be reached through the link (fig. 2 (102));

o   an online service mechanism for providing the online services to the user (fig. 2 (100)); and

o   a service transfer mechanism for issuing the ticket to the user when the user chooses, through

    the linking page, to connect to the affiliated web site for the available service (paragraph 0025

    lines 13-20), the ticket enabling the user to connect to the affiliated web site without the need to

    enter the information related to the user (the information in paragraph 0024 lines 1-10 is sent to

    the affiliated web site so that the user does not need to enter this information).

15.   With respect to claim 16, Danneels discloses a system for a main web site, comprising:

o   a user registration mechanism for registering a user, requesting to connect to the main web site

    via a browser (fig. 2 (100));

o   a linking page generation mechanism for generating a linking page that contains a link to the

    affiliated web site and that is to be used to advise the user about an available service offered at

    the affiliated web site, which can be reached through the link (fig. 2 (102)), the affiliated web site

providing additional services that are relevant to the services provided on the main web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the main site);

o   an online service mechanism for providing the online services to the user (fig. 2 (100));

o   a service transfer mechanism for issuing the ticket to the user when the user chooses, through the linking page, to connect to the affiliated web site for the available service (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20), the ticket enabling the user to connect to the affiliated web site without the need to enter the information related to the user (the information in paragraph 0024 lines 1-10 is sent to the affiliated web site so that the user does not need to enter this information).

16.   <u>With respect to claim 17</u>, Danneels discloses the system applied to claim 16, wherein the registration mechanism comprises:

o   a user information database for storing the information related to users of the main web site (fig. 1 (28));

o   an authentication mechanism for authenticating the user based on the information stored in the user information database and the information entered by the user with the requesting (fig. 2 (101), paragraph 0023 lines 1-2); and

o   a registration mechanism for registering the user at the main web site, provided that the user is considered authenticated by the authenticating, and for updating the information related to the user in the user information database according to the information provided with the request (fig. 2 (100), registering a user for the first time can be considered updating information related to the user).

17.   <u>With respect to claim 18</u>, Danneels discloses the system applied to claim 17, wherein the

service transfer mechanism comprises:

o   a ticket issuing mechanism for issuing the ticket (fig. 2 (106)) based on the information related to

the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o   a ticket signing mechanism for generating a digital signature (fig. 2 (106), paragraph 0023 lines

16-19, paragraph 0024 lines 10-13) based on a signing key for the ticket (paragraph 0024 lines

15-20); and

o   a ticket encoding mechanism for encoding the ticket with the digital signature (fig. 2 (106)).

18.   <u>With respect to claim 22</u>, Danneels discloses a computer-readable medium encoded with a

program (fig. 4 (406)), the program, when executed, causing:

o   registering a user from a browser, at a main web site (fig. 2 (100));

o   generating, at the main web site, a linking page, containing a link to an affiliated web site (fig. 2

(102)) that provides additional services that are relevant to the services provided on the main

web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the

main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the

main site);

o   advising the user about an available service offered at the affiliated web site, which can be

reached through the link (fig. 2 (102), offering a benefit available through a link);

o   choosing, by the user, to connect to the affiliated web site for the available service through

activating the link on the linking page (fig. 2 (102));

o   issuing, by the main web site, upon the link being activated, a ticket (fig. 2 (106), value token), to

the user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20), encoded with different kinds of information related to the

user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o   requesting, by the user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20, through the user's web browser), the

available service at the affiliated web site using the ticket (fig. 2 (110));

o   verifying, at the affiliated web site, the ticket transferred from the main web site (fig. 2 (112));

o   providing the available service to the user after the verifying the ticket is successful (fig. 3 (114)).

19.   <u>With respect to claim 23</u>, Danneels discloses the medium applied to claim 22, wherein

issuing a ticket comprises:

o   gathering information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o   issuing a timestamp (paragraph 0024 lines 9-10);

o   generating a digital signature of the ticket (fig. 2 (106), paragraph 0023 lines 16-19, paragraph

0024 lines 10-13);

o   creating the ticket based on the information related to the user, the timestamp, and the digital

signature (paragraph 0024 lines 1-13); and

o   encoding the ticket (fig. 2 (106)).

20.   <u>With respect to claim 24</u>, Danneels discloses the medium applied to claim 23, wherein the

verifying the ticket comprises:

o   decoding the ticket (fig. 2 (112)); and

o   authenticating the digital signature of the ticket (paragraph 0024 lines 10-20).

21.   <u>With respect to claim 25</u>, Danneels discloses a computer readable medium encoded with a

program for a main web site (fig. 4 (406)), the program, when executed, causing:

o   receiving a request from a user through a browser (fig. 2 (100) or fig. 2 (101));

o   authenticating the user based on information stored at the main web site (paragraph 0024 lines

     10-20);

o   generating, at the main web site, a linking page, containing a link to an affiliated web site (fig. 2

     (102)) that provides additional services that are relevant to the services provided on the main

     web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the

     main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the

     main site);

o   advising, through the linking page, the user about an available service offered at the affiliated

     web site, which can be reached through the link (fig. 2 (102), offering a benefit available through

     a link);

o   receiving, from the user, a choice to connect to the affiliated web site for the available service

     (fig. 2 (102));

o   issuing (fig. 2 (106), value token), upon receiving the choice of connecting to the available

     service (fig. 2 (102)), a ticket encoded with different kinds of information related to the user

     (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10) and to be used by the user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20, through the

     user's web browser) to request the available service at the affiliated web site (fig. 2 (110)); and

o   transferring the ticket from the main web site to user (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20).

22.   <u>With respect to claim 26</u>, Danneels discloses the medium applied to claim 25, wherein the

issuing the ticket comprises:

o   determining the user's identification (paragraph 0024 lines 2-3);

o   gathering information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10);

o   issuing a timestamp (paragraph 0024 lines 9-10);

o   generating a digital signature of the ticket (fig. 2 (106), paragraph 0023 lines 16-19, paragraph

    0024 lines 10-13);

o   creating the ticket based on the information related to the user, the timestamp, and the digital

    signature (paragraph 0024 lines 1-13); and

o   encoding the ticket (fig. 2 (106)).

23.   With respect to claim 27, Danneels discloses the medium applied to claim 26, wherein

encoding the ticket includes:

o   encoding the ticket as a parameter of a universal resource locator address representing the

    location of the affiliated web site (paragraph 0025 lines 6-9), if the affiliated web site is not in the

    same domain as the main web site (paragraph 0007 lines 2-5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

24.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section
> 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the
> subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary
> skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

25.   Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danneels in view of

Debian GNU/Linux -- Setting the Default Language (hereinafter "Debian").

26.   <u>With respect to claim 7</u>, Danneels discloses the method applied to claim 6. Danneels further

discloses that the information related to the user comprises personal information (paragraph 0024

lines 4-5). Danneels does not expressly disclose that the personal information comprises the user's

language preference. Nonetheless, storing a user's information including a user's language preference

was well known, as evidenced by Debian.

27.   In a similar art, Debian discloses storing a user's language preference (p. 1 "To set the

default language in your browser you have to set a variable that gets passed to the web server.").

Given the teachings of Debian it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

include the user's language preference in the user's personal information transferred to the affiliated

web site. The motivation for doing so would have been so that if the affiliated site requires a default

language setting main web site is able to provide it.

28.   Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danneels in view

of Bari et al. (U.S. 2002/0023059, hereinafter "Bari").

29.   <u>With respect to claim 9</u>, Danneels discloses a method for an affiliated web site, comprising:

o   receiving, a request from a user on a main web site (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20), the request

     having a ticket (fig. 2 (106), value token) comprising a digital signature (fig. 2 (106), paragraph

0023 lines 16-19, paragraph 0024 lines 10-13) and information related to the user (paragraph

0024 lines 1-10);

o   authenticating the digital signature of the ticket (paragraph 0024 lines 10-20);

o   decoding the ticket (fig. 2 (112)), after the digital signature is authenticated by the authenticating,

to extract information related to the user (fig. 2 (114)); and

o   providing an available service offered at the affiliated web site to the user (fig. 3 (114)), where

the affiliated website provides services that are relevant to the services provided on the main

web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the

main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the

main site).

30.   Danneels does not disclose that the affiliated web site resisters the user based on the

information related to the user. Nonetheless, linking a user to an affiliated web site and registering

the user at the affiliated web site based on information related to the user was well known in the art,

as evidenced by Bari.

31.   In a similar art, Bari teaches, at a main web site, linking a user to an affiliated web site

(paragraph 0043 lines 5-7) and registering the user at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0044 lines 1-

3) based on information related to the user (paragraph 0044 lines 23-26).

32.   Given the teachings of Bari, it would have been obvious to use the registration step taught

by Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site based on the information related to the user. The

motivation for doing so would have been to enable the user to take advantage of third party

offerings that require user authentication (Bari paragraph 0006 lines 5-11).

33.   With respect to claim 10, Danneels-Bari teaches the method applied to claim 9, wherein

information related to the user includes:

o   user's identification (paragraph 0024 lines 2-3).

34.   Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danneels in

view of Bari, and further in view of Debian.

35.   With respect to claims 10-11, Danneels-Bari teaches the method applied to claim 9.

Danneels further discloses that the information related to the user comprises personal information

(paragraph 0024 lines 4-5). Danneels does not expressly disclose that the personal information

comprises the user's language preference. Nonetheless, storing a user's information including a

user's language preference was well known, as evidenced by Debian.

In a similar art, Debian discloses storing a user's language preference (p. 1 "To set the default

language in your browser you have to set a variable that gets passed to the web server."). Given the

teachings of Debian it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the

user's language preference in the user's personal information transferred to the affiliated web site.

The motivation for doing so would have been so that if the affiliated site requires a default language

setting main web site is able to provide it.

36.   Claims 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danneels in view of

Bari.

37.   With respect to claim 12, Danneels-Bari teaches the method applied to claim 9. As discussed

above in the rejection of claim 9, it would have been obvious to use the registration step taught by

Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site based on the information related to the user. The

registration step taught by Bari further comprises:

o   determining, using the user's identification, whether the user is a new user, with respect to the

    information stored in a user's information database at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0051

    lines 3-5);

o   determining whether a new account should be opened for the user if the user is identified as a

    new user (paragraph 0051 lines 3-5);

o   opening a new account for the user if it is determined that a new account should be opened for a

    new user (paragraph 0051 lines 18-19);

o   authenticating, if the user is a new user, using the information related to the user stored in the

    user information database (paragraph 0046 lines 8-14);

o   determining, if the user is authenticated by the authenticating, whether the information related to

    the user decoded from the ticket is different from the information related to the user stored in

    the user's information database at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0052 lines 1-9); and

o   updating the user's information database based on the information related to the user decoded

    from the ticket, if either the user is a new user or the information in the user information

    database at the affiliated web site is different from the information related to the user decoded

    from the ticket (paragraph 0052 lines 1-9).

38.   Claims 15, 19-21, and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Danneels in view of Bari.

39.   <u>With respect to claim 15</u>, Danneels discloses the system applied to claim 14, wherein the

affiliated web site comprises:

o   a ticket authentication mechanism for authenticating the ticket received from the user to request

    the available service (paragraph 0024 lines 10-20); and

o   an online mechanism for providing the user the available service (fig. 3 (114)).

40.   Danneels does not disclose a registration mechanism for registering the user, after the

authenticating the ticket, at the affiliated web site. Nonetheless, linking a user to an affiliated web

site and registering the user at the affiliated web site was well known in the art, as evidenced by Bari.

41.   In a similar art, Bari teaches, at a main web site, linking a user to an affiliated web site

(paragraph 0043 lines 5-7) and registering the user at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0044 lines 1-

3).

42.   Given the teachings of Bari, it would have been obvious to use the registration step taught

by Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site, thereby enabling the user to take advantage of

third party offerings that require user authentication (Bari paragraph 0006 lines 5-11).

43.   <u>With respect to claim 19</u>, Danneels discloses a system for an affiliated web site, comprising:

o   a ticket authentication mechanism for authenticating a ticket received from a user on a main web

    site to request an available service at the affiliated web site (fig. 2 (112)), the ticket comprising

    information related to the user (paragraph 0024 lines 1-10) and a digital signature (fig. 2 (106),

    paragraph 0023 lines 16-19, paragraph 0024 lines 10-13); and

o   an online service mechanism for providing the available service to the user (fig. 3 (114)), where

the affiliated website provides additional services that are relevant to the services provided on

the main web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the

services on the main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a

member of the main site).

44.   Danneels does not disclose a registration mechanism for registering the user, after the

authenticating the ticket, at the affiliated web site based on the information related to the user.

Nonetheless, linking a user to an affiliated web site and registering the user at the affiliated web site

based on information related to the user was well known in the art, as evidenced by Bari.

45.   In a similar art, Bari teaches, at a main web site, linking a user to an affiliated web site

(paragraph 0043 lines 5-7) and registering the user at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0044 lines 1-

3) based on information related to the user (paragraph 0044 lines 23-26).

46.   Given the teachings of Bari, it would have been obvious to use the registration mechanism

taught by Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site, after the ticket is authenticated, based on

the information related to the user. The motivation for doing so would have been to enable the user

to take advantage of third party offerings that require user authentication (Bari paragraph 0006 lines

5-11).

47.   <u>With respect to claim 20</u>, Danneels-Bari teaches the method applied to claim 19, wherein the

ticket authentication mechanism comprises:

o   a signature authenticating mechanism for authenticating the digital signature of the ticket using a

verifying key (Danneels paragraph 0024 lines 15-20);

o a ticket decoding mechanism for, after the digital signature of the ticket is authenticated
   (Danneels paragraph 0024 lines 10-20), decoding the ticket (Danneels fig. 2 (112)); and

o a ticket parsing mechanism for, after the ticket is decoded, parsing the ticket to extract the
   information related to the user (Danneels fig. 2 (112)).

48.   With respect to claim 21, Danneels-Bari teaches the method applied to claim 20. As
discussed above in the rejection of claim 19, it would have been obvious to use the registration
mechanism taught by Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site. The registration mechanism
taught by Bari further comprises:

o a user status determiner for determining whether the user is a new user or an existing user or
   whether the information related to the user encoded in the ticket is different from the
   information related to the user stored in the user information database at the affiliated site
   (paragraph 0051 lines 3-5);

o a new user registration mechanism for, if the user is a new user, registering the user as a new
   user based on the information related to the user extracted from the ticket (paragraph 0051 lines
   13-19);

o an existing user registration mechanism for registering an existing user, including authenticating
   the existing user, registering the existing user, and updating the information related to the
   existing user stored in the user information database, if the extracted information related to the
   user is different from the information related to the user stored in the user information database
   (paragraph 0052 lines 1-9).

49.   With respect to claim 28, Danneels discloses a computer-readable medium encoded with a

program for an affiliated web site (fig. 4 (406)), the program, when executed, causing:

o   receiving, a request from a user on a main web site (paragraph 0025 lines 13-20), the request

       having a ticket (fig. 2 (106), value token) comprising a digital signature (fig. 2 (106), paragraph

       0023 lines 16-19, paragraph 0024 lines 10-13) and information related to the user (paragraph

       0024 lines 1-10);

o   authenticating the digital signature of the ticket (paragraph 0024 lines 10-20);

o . decoding the ticket (fig. 2 (112)), after the digital signature is authenticated by the authenticating,

       to extract information related to the user (fig. 2 (114)); and

o   providing an available service offered at the affiliated web site to the user (fig. 3 (114)), where

       the affiliated website provides services that are relevant to the services provided on the main

       web site (abstract lines 11-13, the services on the affiliated site are relevant to the services on the

       main site because a member is entitled to the services of the affiliated site as a member of the

       main site).

50.   Danneels does not disclose that the affiliated web site resisters the user based on the

information related to the user. Nonetheless, linking a user to an affiliated web site and registering

the user at the affiliated web site based on information related to the user was well known in the art,

as evidenced by Bari.

51.   In a similar art, Bari teaches, at a main web site, linking a user to an affiliated web site

(paragraph 0043 lines 5-7) and registering the user at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0044 lines 1-

3) based on information related to the user (paragraph 0044 lines 23-26).

52.   Given the teachings of Bari, it would have been obvious to use the registration step taught

by Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site based on the information related to the user. The

motivation for doing so would have been to enable the user to take advantage of third party

offerings that require user authentication (Bari paragraph 0006 lines 5-11).

53.   With respect to claim 29, Danneels-Bari teaches the method applied to claim 28. As

discussed above in the rejection of claim 28, it would have been obvious to use the registration step

taught by Bari to register the user at the affiliated web site. The registration step taught by Bari

further comprises:

o   determining, using the user's identification, whether the user is a new user with respect to

    information stored in a user information database at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0051 lines

    3-5);

o   determining whether a new account should be opened for the user if the user is identified as a

    new user (paragraph 0051 lines 3-5);

o   opening a new account for the user if it is determined that a new account should be opened for a

    new user (paragraph 0051 lines 18-19);

o   authenticating, if the user is not a new user, the user using information related to the user stored

    in the user information database at the affiliated site (paragraph 0046 lines 8-14);

o   determining, if the user is authenticated by the authenticating, whether the information related to

    the user decoded from the ticket is different from the information related to the user stored in

    the user information database at the affiliated web site (paragraph 0052 lines 1-9); and

o   updating te user's information database based on the informaitno related to the user decoded

    form the ticket, if either the user is a new user or the information in the user information

    database at the affiliated web site is different from the information related to the user decoded

    from the ticket (paragraph 0052 lines 1-9).

Conclusion

54.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

55.   Laor (U.S. 6,076,069) discloses a method for distributing and redeeming electronic coupons

(i.e. tickets) wherein coupons are transferred to a client in advance of a client establishing a

connection with a server, and wherein the coupons are encrypted (col. 2 lines 1-21).

56.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office

action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is

reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

57.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS

from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the

mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the

THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on

the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be

calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory

period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

58.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Philip S. Scuderi whose telephone number is (571) 272-5865. The examiner

can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

59.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Glenton B. Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

60.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system,

see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system,

contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PSS

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